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USSR: The change of command of the KGB is probably at least in part the result of high-level dissatisfaction with the performance of that organization.

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[redacted] Vladimir Semichastny--who has headed the KGB since 1961--may have left the job in disfavor. As yet there is no clear sign of how the change affects political relationships at the politburo level, but Semichastny's removal may be damaging to his long-time political ally, politburo member Aleksander Shelepin, himself a former KGB chief.

Yuri Andropov, the new KGB chief, like his last two predecessors is not a professional security official. He has been a member of the party secretariat, a post which he is likely to give up now. His new appointment will necessitate the reassignment of responsibility for intrabloc relations, a change which the leadership may feel beneficial at this stage. [redacted]

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NOTES

Hong Kong: Increased numbers of well-organized demonstrators appeared at government headquarters yesterday as the Communists continued their pressure on British authorities on Hong Kong Island. In Kowloon, however, the situation is becoming more orderly, with work reportedly scheduled to resume today at the factory where riots touched off the Communist campaign last week. Within the business community, growing anxiety is reflected in rising prices for gold and foreign exchange.

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